United Nations A/64/733

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 March 2010
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 20
The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in order to convey the attached letter dated 24 March 2010 from His Excellency Mr. Mario M. Canahuati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras, to His Excellency Mr. Samuel Santos López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, concerning the unfortunate events of 20 March 2010 surrounding the Honduran vessel Jeimi (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20.

(*Signed*) Jorge Arturo **Reina Idiaquez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

It is my honour to write to you and I refer hereby to the unfortunate events of 20 March 2010 concerning the Honduran vessel Jeimi, reported by the General Command of the Navy of Honduras. Lieutenant-Commander Francisco Pérez of the Potosí Naval Base in Nicaragua reported to the Navy of Honduras that the seven-metre fibreglass craft, with a 40 horsepower outboard engine, "was seized carrying two crew members, Adonis Rivas Rodas, who was detained, and Víctor Muñoz, who jumped overboard during the operation and is missing".

The corresponding investigation by the Navy of Honduras found that:

1. The alleged detainee, Adonis Rivas Rodas, was found shipwrecked in Amapala, Honduras, and the Commander of the Naval Base there transported him to Guapinol, his place of origin in Honduras; and

2. That the body of Víctor Manuel Argeñal Muñoz, or Víctor Muñoz, who was reported missing, was discovered on 21 March 2010 outside the Potosí Naval Base in Nicaragua, with a head injury. The relatives of the deceased travelled from Honduras and collected his remains from the beach, without the authorities officially releasing the body.

The survivor, Adonis Rivas Rodas, stated publicly that while they were fishing in Honduran national waters, "the Nicaraguan Navy fired several shots and the patrol boat rammed us; I never saw my friend again".

In reaction to these regrettable incidents, which go against the brotherhood and harmony that should exist among Central Americans, I am requesting, through you, a thorough investigation by the authorities of Nicaragua and punishment of those responsible for the incidents that led to the death of a young Honduran citizen, with no plausible explanation to date; endangered the life of another Honduran citizen; and damaged private property. Furthermore, the Government of Honduras formally and energetically protests to your Government, and trusts that events of this nature will not happen again.

(*Signed*) Mario M. **Canahuati**
Secretary of State